AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
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МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ АМНИСТИЯ
منظمة العفو الدولية
國際特赦組織

TL 3976

URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 21/41/97

UA 170/97 — Fear of torture/ill-treatment — 12 June 1997

EAST TIMOR

Joaquim Carvalho Araujo, 36
Aleixo, 65
Marcos Exposto, 34
Domingos Quintao, 34

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of four men currently being held in military custody in Remexio in Aileu District, East Timor. The four are believed to have been denied access to lawyers and to members of their families.

Joaquim Carvalho Araujo, Aleixo, Marcos Exposto and Domingos Quintao were arrested on 9 June in Aileu District by soldiers from the Aileu District Military Command (KODIM). They are believed to be being held in the Aileu KODIM headquarters where it is feared that they may be subjected to torture or ill-treatment. The precise reasons for the arrests are not clear but it is believed to be in relation to a recent spate of attacks by *Falintil*, an armed opposition group fighting for East Timorese independence.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent weeks there has been an increase in reported attacks by *Falintil* against military and government targets. At least 42 people, including civilians, members of the Armed Forces, the police force and of *Falantil*, are believed to have been killed during the attacks.

Amnesty International condemns the attacks on civilians by *Falantil*. However, the organization is concerned that retaliation by the Indonesian security forces may spread beyond those directly responsible for the killings and result in the arrest of people who have been involved only in peaceful activities in support of East Timorese independence.

Since the attacks, the military authorities claim they have arrested over 100 individuals. With the exception of 23 people being held in Dili and the four known to have been arrested in Aileu, all have been taken to military or police installations for questioning and then released.

Torture or ill-treatment of political detainees in East Timor in both police or military custody is routine. The risk is particularly high during interrogation when detainees are frequently denied access to legal counsel and to their families. In addition, restrictions are placed by the Indonesian authorities on access to East Timor for independent human rights monitors.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or Bahasa Indonesia or your own language:
- urging the authorities to clarify the charges against the four men;
- seeking assurances that none of the four will be subjected to torture or ill-treatment;
- urging the authorities to allow all the four detainees access to medical care, members of their families and to independent legal advisers.

APPEALS TO:

Chief of Police for East Timor
Lt Col Mucharam

Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ, United Kingdom

Tel: (44)(171) 413 5500 Fax: 956 1157 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502 E-mail: uateam@amnesty.org

Kapolda Timor Timur
Dili
East Timor (Indonesia)
Telegrams: Kapolda Timor Timur, Dili, East Timor
Salutation: Dear Lt Col Mucharam

Military Commander for Region IX/Udayana
(Covers Bali, Lombok, Nusa Tenggara and East Timor)
Major General Rivai
Pangdam IX/Udayana
Markas Besar KODAM IX/Udayana
Denpasar, Bali
Indonesia
Telegrams: Pangdam IX/Udayana, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia
Salutation: Dear Major General Rivai

COPIES TO:

National Commission on Human Rights
Komisi Nasional Hak Asazi Manusia (Komnas HAM)
Alex Refialy SH
Jalan Dr Antonio de Carvelho
Dili, East Timor
(Indonesia)

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 15 July 1997.